

DARPA-BAA-12-42

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: 5/23/12

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: If my research is relevant in this field, but is not geared specifically to meet these goals, is there a solicitation that I can respond to?

A: Yes. DARPA/DSO has an Open solicitation (DARPA-BAA-11-65) for which responses are being collected through 9 Aug 2012.

Q: Is this the final version of the FAQ?

A: No. The FAQ will be update periodically as more questions are directed to the BAA office (DARPA-BAA-12-42@darpa.mil).

ELIGIBILITY & TEAMING

Q: Is there a teaming website for this effort?

A: Yes - <https://team.sainc.com/quinness>.

Q: Can a prime or collaborator be an international company?

A: Yes, international companies and universities are acceptable.

Q: Is subcontracting to a National Lab or Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) permitted?

A: Yes. Proposer should comply with the section on FFRDCs as stated within the BAA.

PROPOSALS

Q: Will any response be provided to abstracts?

A: It is anticipated that replies will be made on whether proposals are encouraged or discouraged as well as limited feedback on the encourage/discourage decision.

Q: Will abstracts submitted after the deadline stated in the BAA receive a response?

A: As stated in the BAA, "The proposal abstract must be submitted to DARPA/DSO **on or before 4:00 p.m., local time, June 14, 2012**. Proposal abstracts received after this time and date may not be reviewed."

COST

Q: What is the overall DARPA budget for Quiness? Are there funding limits for individual proposals?

A: The investment profile for Quiness has not been fixed at this time. The final program will depend on the proposals selected for funding. At this time, no single-project funding limits have been set.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Q: How many awards are anticipated?

A: The number of awards will depend on the merits of the proposals received and funds available.

TECHNICAL

Q: Is my planned/proposed research approach consistent with the program objectives of the BAA?

A: DARPA is not able to suggest specific research approaches. If you feel that your chosen effort is consistent with the objectives of the BAA and capable of meeting the goals stated within the BAA, then you should feel free to propose them. It is strongly encouraged that you read the BAA carefully. It is your burden to make clear within your proposal that your approach is supportive of your innovative claims, and includes a detailed analysis of the technical motivation.

Q: Do you require each and every bit in the key generated at the 1-10Gbps be proven fully secure due to quantum nature? In this case, is there a metric you anticipate to use to characterize the "quantum" nature of the security?

A: The goal of this BAA is to solicit novel experimental solutions (not incremental solutions) to the problem of secure, high-rate, long-distance quantum communications. However, due to their novelty, some proposed solutions may not yet have formal security proofs. Successful proposals should demonstrate that the proposed approach can feasibly lead to a fully secure key generation rate of 1-10 Gbps over 1,000-10,000km. Successful proposals are not required to prove the approach's security before the program begins, but instead should demonstrate that it is feasible that such a security proof can eventually be completed. Accordingly, teams should indicate in their proposal what they believe are the best security metrics and security criteria.